AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary, of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

SOUTHERN NEWSPAPER FAVORS TRADE UNIONS

Columbia, S. C., Nov. 12.—The Columbia State has again shown its front—the right front of thoughtfulness of southern newspapers by a defense of the workers' right to organize. Manufacturers are called upon to reckon with the spirit of the times, and in referring to the discharge of several cotton operatives in Greenville, because they joined the United Textile Workers' union, the editor says:

"Collective bargaining is rapidly being recognized nearly everywhere in the United States, and in opposing it in no more wisdom than would be opposing movement of the tides or the march of the seasons."

"To say that textile workers of the south," continues this paper, "are peculiarly situated, that they and their work differ from other laboring men and their employment, so that unionizing them would not help them, is to challenge the plain facts of labor's history.

"If the mill workers of South Carolina have a politics different from, if they have sometimes stopped their ears to the appeals of their own friends, if they have fallen an easy prey to demagogues opposed to every reform designed for their betterment, the explanation is not hard to find. They have felt that they were neglected and forgotten. A sense of helplessness, and hopelessness has depressed them and they have groped for and grasped at anything that has promised relief and strength. Why should anyone oppose their unionizing? Why should they not join forces? Let them do so, and as a day comes when they do that, they will become self reliant and gain freedom from a demagogic domination. They will learn and know that fellow citizens engaged in other work are not their enemies and oppressors.

"The mill workers have the right to unionize. Their unionizing cannot and ought not to be prevented. It will make them better citizens and better men. It will in time make them freer and strong-er. That is enough for The State."

BANKS WARNED AGAINST USURY

Washington, Nov. 12.—Comptroller of the Currency Williams has mailed a letter to all national banks calling attention to the law against usury.

"This office," says the letter, "regrets to report that the seven statements of condition of a great many national banks show that section 5197, U. S. revised statutes, against usury, has been grossly violated by these banks.

"You are respectfully advised and admonished that this provision of the national bank act should be faithfully observed by all national bank directors, officers and directors, in accordance with the solemn oaths taken by them.

"You are requested to read this letter at the next meeting of your board of directors, and to have it inscribed upon the minutes, and to send a copy of the letter to every member of your board who may not be present at such meeting."

In a speech last month the federal bank official called attention to the usurious practices of certain national banks, which charged, in some cases, as high as 2,400 per cent.

"Here in this country," he said, "we find bankers, men in business who should be the most respectable, as it is the most responsible of all secular avocations, literally crushing the faces of their neighbors, wholly unlawfully fattening their fangs in the very heart of poverty."

REJECT ALLEGED "M. O."

Detroit, Nov. 13.—Trade unionists succeeded, at last election, in defeating the proposed municipal ownership plank by an actual majority of 2,239. It was necessary to secure 60 per cent of the total vote cast. This means that the plan was rejected by about 10,000 votes.

Unionists opposed the plan because it made no provision for arbitrating grievances workers might present. It was supposed to make the commission that would run the street cars absolute dictators over the control of the city council or other representatives of the people. The powerful street car men's union showed that if the plan was adopted it would be impossible to enforce contractural relations similar to those now existing between them and the street car company, and that they were in danger of losing every advance it has taken years to secure. The unionists determined to have the proposal amended so that the workers' rights would be protected. In this they failed, so they defeated the plan.

By the small majority of 167 an amendment was carried which empowers the city to adopt the plan. It is claimed that under this amendment the defeated proposal can be resubmitted to the people.

ORGANIZE PRISON LABOR BOARD

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 12.—The state prison labor board, created by the 1913 legislature to supervise the work of prisoners in state penal and reform institutions, organized last week. Under the law the board receives an appropriation of $75,000 to purchase machinery and supplies and establish the system.

The supplies will be sold only to state institutions and prisoners are to be paid from 30 cents to 60 cents a day. Three-fourths of earnings go to the dependents of prisoners. Where there are no dependents the money is credited to the prisoners who will receive one-third when discharged, one-third three months later and one-third six months later. It is hoped that this plan will be extended, thereby giving all prisoners a trade when free. The office of the state prison labor board will be at Philadelphia.

EXPORTS MAKE RECORD.

Washington, Nov. 12.—September was a record-breaker for United States exports, the figures being the largest in the history of the country, according to a statement made by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. The exports for September, this year, totaled $394,000,000, compared with $156,052,333 for the same month of last year. The imports also showed an increase for the month of this year, the first time an increase has been shown for many months. The figures indicate that $783,596,026 worth of materials were imported into the country in September, as compared with $288,710,641 for the same month of last year.

ADOPT MINIMUM WAGE LAW.

Cleveland, Nov. 12.—A minimum wage amendment to the city charter was adopted at the recent election by a majority approximating 50,000. The act applies to all work done for the city, municipality and provides that where a craft is organized, the rates of that union must prevail. In trades and callings where no unions exist a minimum of $2.50 per day shall be the rule.

MEAT CUTTERS ORGANIZE.

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 12.—Meat cutters and butcher workmen have organized and union affiliated to the international of that craft.

LABOR LAW OPPONENTS TOLD TO BE CONSISTENT

San Francisco, Nov. 12.—The national association of manufacturers has petitioned congress to reconsider the seamen's law, specific objection being made to the language test, the provision that 45 per cent of the crew of a vessel must be able seamen and the provision that makes it legal for a member of a vessel's crew to quit his job.

Editor Barry, of the Weekly Star, makes the following comment on the above action:

"To prove its good faith and uncommonly good sense, the association should have passed other resolutions, along the following lines:

"Demanding that fire and police departments may be composed of men who do not understand the language of the officers.

"Demanding that crews of vessels of the navy may be composed of men who do not understand the language of the officers.

"Demanding that railway trains may be handled by conductors and engineers who do not understand the language of train dispatchers.

"Demanding that it be made illegal for employers to give written orders to quit his job without the consent of the employer, and that any Pullman porter who loses his job at the end of a run be arrested and punished.

"There are other demands, equally absurd, that the national association of manufacturers might have adopted, but the foregoing would be enough to show how consistent and sensible are the opponents of the seamen's law have now come out into the open and occupy the position of demanding that the American merchant marine of which the only things 'American' will be the flag floating above an 'American' subsidy."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Nov. 12.—A report issued by the United States department of labor, bureau of immigration, shows that 326,700 immigrants were admitted during the month of September. Italy contributed the largest number, 2,030, followed by Greece, with 1,676; England, 1,359; Portugal, 1,261, and Ireland, 1,194. The number of Japanese total 646, while 134 Chinese were admitted.

The effect the present war has on immigration to this country is shown in the government's report on immigration for December, 1913, when 22,221 Russians were admitted. The last report (September, 1915), shows that 612 Russians were admitted.

Of the 21,486 immigrants during September, 10,342 were classed as laborers, 1,823 as farm laborers, and 2,700 as servants. In the skilled trades and callings, many of the aliens were listed as 788. Carpenters and joiners were next with 354; tailors, 226, and miners, 204.

The United States received the bulk of these immigrants. 7,318 being ticketed to New York and 2,927 to Massachusetts. The southern states are making no effort attraction to these newcomers. Arkansas received only 1; Mississippi, 2; North Carolina, 13, and South Carolina, 7.

ASKS AID FOR COPPER STRIKERS

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 13.—Gov. Hunt has issued an appeal in behalf of 5,000 Arizona copper miners who have been thrown out of living conditions. The state's executive refers to the Thanksgiving season as follows:

"For the observance of feast days when the hungry poor, the friendless and the unsheltered and the sorrowing go uncomforted must savour sharply of sacrilege, and ever be tinctured with sadness.

"In the Clifton-Morenci mining district in Greenlee county and in Pima county there exists deplorably a condition where by nearly five thousand workingmen are deprived of employment and, where, consequently, hundreds of families with their slender savings exhausted are entering the depths of misery and want, while many dependable supply of the necessities of life. Words cannot express or pictures portray the extreme suffering that even now is bearing its cruel visage to the worthy people of this stricken district."

EVILS OF CHILD LABOR SHOWN

Berkeley, Cal., Nov. 13.—There are just 1,000,225 children less than 15 years old working for wages in the United States, said Miss Josephine J. Eschenbrenner, of the national child labor committee. This is a ratio of one child in six, she said, who are kept out of school to make American dollars under unhealthful industrial conditions. In New York there are 10,000 houses in which sweatshop labor is carried on. The means of the families engaged in this kind of labor in the shadow of the statue of liberty. Other cities are no better. The hobbies of this sort of industry, while in southern cotton mills conditions are appalling, the morals of whole states full of pure Americans' has been lowered through child labor, she declared.

WOULD MAKE BOARD SOLE JUDGE

Chicago, Nov. 13.—In the teachers' federation injunction proceedings, heard in Judge Sullivan's court, Attorney Shannon for the school board contended that the board had a right to prohibit teachers joining the union, regardless of whether or not the union was inimical. When Judge O'Connor granted the temporary injunction against the board enforcing its anti-union resolution, the court ruled that the board had not shown that the teachers' federation is inimical to the school system.

Now Attorney Shannon answers, 'in effect, that this is not necessary, as the board is absolute.

MACHINISTS MAKE GAINS.

Washington, Nov. 13.—Officers of the International Association of Machinists publishes a report that includes gains made since their last list was issued. It is shown that approximately 16,000 of these workers have secured either the eight-hour day or other substantial reductions in hours, while wage increases play a prominent part in the gains made. Also, 12,000 other employes have benefited, the machinists say, by their agitation.

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 12.—Members of Teamsters' union No. 44, and the city garbage men, are now working eight hours a day with time and one-half for overtime.

Steubenville, O., Nov. 13.—Teamsters have secured the passage of an ordinance which provides for the rates under rates for drivers employed by the city.

WALKER HEADS LABOR INQUIRY.

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 12.—The commission recently appointed by Gov. Dunne to investigate the causes of unemployment has elected as its chairman President Walker, of the state federation of labor.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMACY IS HARMFUL TO WORKERS' CAUSE

Proposed World's Labor Congress Discussed by Trade Unionists

San Francisco, Nov. 13.—The declaration of the A. F. of L. convention, last year, that a world's labor congress be held at the same time and place that a general congress shall be held at the close of the present war, is discussed at length by the A. F. of L. executive council, in its report to the annual convention.

While the executive council is conscious of the many difficulties that may arise, it makes several general recommendations, including the following:

"Then it should also be understood that delegates and representatives to this congress must be either officials or duly accredited representatives of economic organizations of wage-earners. No representations of political organizations, or individuals assuming to act in behalf of such sort of an organization except a bona fide labor organization, shall be admitted as members of the conference.

"In order that the position of the workers of the United States in regard to international peace and war may be fully representative and carry with it the weight of the unanimous voice of labor of the country, we recommend that all international trade unions be urged to give every assistance and pledge their cooperation to the program and plan outlined by this convention for the holding of a world's labor conference."

Discussing "Purposes of Labor's Peace Congress," the executive council says: "It is impossible to plan in advance for all questions that may arise, but that delegates must be guided 'by the fundamental principle labor's human welfare must have the greatest consideration."

Acting on this theory, the report says:

"During the previous history of the world, international relations have been left as the field for professional statesmen and politicians. As a result this field has not been organized and there is no machinery or agencies for dealing justly, comprehensively and humanely with international questions and rights. There exists, however, what may well be considered as developing permanent institutions. This nucleus consists of The Hague tribunal and that indefinite mass of international customs known as international law.

"Suggestions are made to these embryonic institutions to futher develop into a more comprehensive provision for influencing international relations.

"However, there has been no effort to democratize these institutions and to make them directly responsible to the peoples of the various nations concerned.

"The demand for democratic control and democratic organization of international agencies and international methods must come from the people, for it is hardly probable that diplomats and statesmen will voluntarily propose to share their power and authority with the masses of the people; and yet it is the masses of the people who suffer most grievously from wars and who must bear the brunt of war both during the time of fighting and in the period of readjustment that follows cessation of warfare.

"Not only has there been little or no effort to democratize international relations, but very little consideration has been given to democratizing the foreign policies of the countries. The foreign policies have been worked out by each nation, but would follow naturally from the establishment of the rule of the people in international affairs. The matters that will be considered by the international peace congress at the end of the present European war will be of vast importance in determining future policies and the directions of development for decades, aye, perhaps for all time.

"At all previous congresses of this type the matters considered have been purely political and have been determined from the viewpoint of professional diplomacy which is essentially reactionary and opposed to even the larger problems of national statesmanship and the general welfare of the masses of the people. Since the activities of the wage-earners of all nations is largely affected by international agreements, the latter should be given primary consideration in the deliberations of a world peace congress.

"Just as the wage-earners of each country have by insistent demands forced their political agents to consider matters affecting their welfare, and have forced national recognition of the principle that the well-being of the people that constitute the nation is a matter of fundamental importance to the nation, so the wage-workers of the various nations must insist that there shall be established as an international principle that the welfare of human beings is of fundamental importance in international relations and intercourse. In whatever provisions are made for international political agencies, they must be such as will represent the demands of the people that these agents must be responsible to them."

GOOD FOOD CURES PELLAGRA

Washington, Nov. 12.—While professional "upliftere," philanthropists and investigators have given various reasons for the southern prevalence of pellagra, the United States public health service declares that its investigations, during the past year, has proven that pellagra is caused by workers being too poor to buy proper foods, and that "the remedy for disease points to a lessened financial ability of the southern wage earners' families to provide a properly balanced diet."

An exhaustive review of data relating to diet and nutrition, particularly among the poorer classes, who suffer most from pellagra, has been made by the service in investigating the incidence of pellagra, as it makes it harder for the poorer families to obtain a general diet of fresh foods.

"The lower the economic status of the white American," says the report, "in this view, 'the greater is the pressure for sacrifices in diet, particularly in animal foods, since they are the most expensive.

"The economic status of wage-earners' families in the cotton mill districts, particularly of cotton mill families, is lower than that of wage-earners' families in other sections of the country."

Jackson, Miss., Nov. 13.—Governor Brewer has pardoned the 11 convicts who volunteered to be experimented on by Surgeon Gen. Blue, of the United States health service, and who proved that poor diet is responsible for pellagra. Six of the convicts were life prisoners. The experiments extended over a period of one year. It is stated that six of the pardoned men have pellagra or are pronounced form, and they will now be nursed back to health.

DOES UNIONISM PAY?

Indianapolis, Nov. 12.—"Does unionism pay?" is answered by Secretary-Treasurer Driscoll, of the Boston Milk Drivers' union, who addressed the convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The Boston drivers organized in October, 1910. At that time wages averaged $12.50 per week for drivers and $15 for stable foremen. Today, through organization, drivers receive $19.50 per week and will receive $20 after September 1, 1916. Route foremen receive $20 per week now and will be paid $23 after September 1, next year. A two weeks' vacation with pay during the summer months and a day off every three weeks during the winter months, 10 days off every year with pay, are additional proofs of the value of trade unionism.

FACTORY WORKERS IN PERIL.

New York, Nov. 12.—Thousands of men and women, working in the upper floors of hundreds of ramshackle buildings in this city, hourly face the peril of death, according to a factory organization committee, who are investigating the fatal Diamond candy fire at Brooklyn.

It is impossible, they said, to see that each law governing the sanitation of employes' lives is obeyed. They must depend upon the conscience of the employer to prevent a disaster. It is known, however, that when at least twelve girls and men perished at the Diamond fire, and of the Triangle waist factory fire when the dead numbered 147.

CARPENTERS ARE ACTIVE.

Indianapolis, Nov. 12.—Secretary Frank Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, reports that the following unions have been organized during the past month: St. Claireville, Ohio; Tifton, Ga.; New York City (ship carpenters); Northeast, Pa., and Portsmouth, Va., (shipyards). Strikes in Nashua, N. H., and Allentown, Pa., for increased wages, have ended successfully. Carpenters in Naugatuck, Conn., are demanding a wage rate of $2.50 a day, to become effective the first of April, next year.

SUSPEND STEAMBOAT PROBE.

Washington, Nov. 12.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield has ordered that the investigation of the steamboat inspection service of the great lakes be suspended. Steamboat inspectors who were conducting this probe have been ordered to their respective stations. It is stated that this order was issued as a result of the storm's fury which became manifest to the American vessels Nov. 9. The investigation started shortly after the Eastland disaster.

CRIMINALS MADE BY JAILS

Chicago, Nov. 12.—"The Real Jail Problem" is the subject of a booklet published by the Juvenile Protective association in an effort to save victims of the law's delay. It is stated that about 8,000 persons are annually sent to the county jail here. Of this number 6,000 are found guilty. What of the nearly 7,000 others, is asked? What of those who have become jailbirds and have suffered the penalty of imprisonment because they were too poor to provide bonds? It is stated that 2,000 persons are committed to the house of correction every year, and that the vast majority of them are there not because they have been found guilty of offense deserving a house of correction sentence, but because they were too poor to pay the small fines assessed against them.

Discussing this subject, the booklet shows:

"In 1913, 82 per cent; in 1912, 82 per cent; in 1911 and 1910, 86 per cent of all the prisoners in the house of correction had been committed solely for the nonpayment of fines. It is scarcely necessary to point out that ultimately these fines are paid by the men and their families in suffering and privation, but also by the taxpayers who support the institution.

"To correct these evils, it is recommended that:

"Persons accused of crime should be placed on probation when unable to secure bonds.

"A different jail should be used for persons awaiting trial than the one for persons sentenced.

"A county jail should be a place of detention only for the few persons who cannot safely be released pending trial.

"A sentenced prisoner should be given an opportunity to work outdoors and a chance for improvement."

NEW ANTI-SUFFRAGE LOGIC.

New York, Nov. 12.—In its opposition to women's suffrage, the Wall Street Journal has displayed the claim that "men have long since enslaved" them. Other opponents of this theory, who have claimed that "women's place is the home," have long since abandoned it in the fact that thousands of women are employed in factories and retail workshops at less than a living wage.

But the Wall Street Journal takes a new line. "Are women capable?" "Can women really want equality?" Then, before any one else can reply, the editor says:

"There is not a broker in Wall street who does not dread women customers. They do not want equal treatment. They want all the men get and an extra concession for sex. They are the worst losers in the world, and they seem incapable of gratitude when they win."

RUBBER WORKERS' DANGERS

Washington, Nov. 12.—Rubber manufacturers are using many dangerous poisonous substances, says a report on this question, issued by the United States department of labor. The dangerous nature of some of the compounds used in the rubber industry is not as yet commonly known, so that cases of industrial poisoning may occur without being recognized as such and ascribed to their true cause, says the report. It is also possible to investigate this industry thoroughly for a long time, however, the report, to make it possible to equip and manage a rubber factory so that exposure to the various dangerous substances will be reduced to an insignificant minimum or wholly eliminated." Relatively little attention seems to have been done in this direction.

CAR MEN ORGANIZE.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 13.—Unions affiliated with the Amalgamated Association of Carmen of America have been organized at the following places during the past week: Elizabeth, N. J.; Carbondale, Pa.; Warwick, N. Y.; Roodhouse, Ill.; Bainbridge, Ga., and Fort William, Ontario.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Batavia, Ill., Nov. 12.—Painters have raised wages from 37½ cents to 45 cents per hour without a strike.

Naugatuck, Conn., Nov. 12.—Painters have raised wages 4½ cents and paperhangers 5 cents. These gains were secured without a strike.

HORSESHOERS' SCALE SIGNED.

Billings, Mont., Nov. 12.—Every shop in this city has signed the Horseshoers' union scale which calls for eight hours and $5 a day.

UNION SHOP ON RAILROADS?

Indianapolis, Nov. 12.—Railroad officials are looking to the establishment of a brotherhood grievance committees. Other reasons, sufficient to themselves, has caused these brotherhoods not to insist on the union shop.

The Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine, official organ of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, indicates, however, that the time is ripe for the application of the theory that those who enjoy benefits should pay for them.

A Magazine correspondent, imbued with the nonunion shop fallacy, protested against these views of another correspondent who supported the union shop theory. The former presented the well-known views of anti-unionists and insisted that the brotherhood should not "dictate" to non-brotherhood men or try to take from them what "rightfully belongs" to them. This claim is answered by Editor McNamee of the Magazine in the following straight-from-the-shoulder manner:

"As an expression of the honest views of the author the foregoing letter is entitled to space in the Magazine, but the imperative need of railroad labor today is the strength of unity and co-operation. The enjoyment by train service employes of running working conditions and a square deal in the matter of bearing the burden of the cost of protection depends on the institution of these reforms, and the sooner they can be established the better will it be for the railroad workers. As to keeping the non-brotherhood men from getting "rightfully belongs' to him, it should be borne in mind that no man has a right under the workings of the seniority rights he enjoys but for the brotherhood, and that he is simply a parasite—an unprincipled sponger if he persists in enjoying the benefits and advantages that the brotherhood men have won while refusing to contribute nothing either in money or effort to aid the brotherhood in its work. The Brotherhood of Firemen and Engineers and Enginemen is a business institution and as this phase was developed, a more complete organization is so requisite to success in the coming struggle, the locomotive firemen who decline to become identified to stay out of our brotherhood although eligible to membership therein, is entitled to receive from our members much less to any solicitude on our part as to his getting what 'rightfully' belongs to him than the force of such debased principle had what really rightfully belongs to him and would be neither firing a locomotive nor filling a job as hostler."

STRIKE GUNMEN BUSY.

Worcester, Mass., Nov. 13.—The numerous strikes in this city have attracted to this section a host of strike gunmen and so-called detective agencies who are asking business men to give them the opportunity to create strife. One of these concerns is the "American Protective Service company," with offices in Park Row building, New York city. In a letter signed by J. Edward Leonard, general manager, and mailed to local manufacturers, the latter are given the following assurance:

"While you are having or about to have labor trouble, why not engage the services of a shrewd, law-abiding, trade unionist." Mayor Howe, anticipating that the city will "fight to the last ditch with all the resources at our command," as the suit, he says, is only intended to hamper and restrict the city in the operation and expansion of its electric light and power business.

The letter concludes with a threat of the company and states that every effort has been made to conduct the municipal light business in a lawful manner.

"GAG" ORDER IS PROTESTED

A. F. of L. Executive Council Favors Congressional Action

U. S. EMPLOYES DENIED RIGHTS

Civil Service System Should Be Overhauled and Renovated—Officials Have "Exaggerated Their Own Personal Importance."

San Francisco, Nov. 12.—In its report to the thirty-fifth annual convention, the A. F. of L. executive council protests against a ruling of the United States civil service commission, in which employes of the Mare Island navy yard, Vallejo, Cal., are denied the right to take part in political activities, and if, in the future, permission to engage in political activity is desired in a specific case, request therefor shall be forwarded to the commission.

The executive council declares that the commission has "entirely ignored" the law of August 24, 1912, which granted labor secured from the sixty-second congress as a protest against the "gag" orders of former President Roosevelt and Taft.

The executive council further says:

"The civil service, commendable and departmental officials have exaggerated their own personal importance and the amount of authority delegated to them while temporarily clothed with official power. Under the civil service rules that a bureaucracy of a very distasteful character is being engrafted upon public and civil service employes. Under the various industrial conditions are being introduced in the departments, which make the lot of civil service employes unenviable and practically unbearable for free citizens."

The report declares it will be advisable, if not imperative, to have bills introduced in congress at once to clearly define the rights of these workers, guaranteeing them the right to organize (now agreed to legislatively and protect them from the "spleen and ill will of political partisans who are acting as department chiefs." The report also declares that as a result of many complaints "we are compelled to believe that there is necessary a thorough examination and an entire overhauling, reconstruction and renovation."

CITY WILL OPPOSE INJUNCTION.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Nov. 12.—Next Monday the Indianapolis federal court will hear the plea of the United States Mortgage and Trust company, of Philadelphia, for an injunction against the mayor and other officials of this city. The eastern trust company has a mortgage on the Fort Wayne and Northern Indiana Traction company, whose employes are striking to enforce their demand for a 25 cent car men's union. The company maintains a lighting plant, which competes with the municipal lighting plant. As Fort Wayne citizens are in favor of the strikers, the company expects to reduced to such figures that the bondholding concern declares it will be impossible for interest payments to be met. The mayor and other officials are blamed for these conditions and an injunction is asked to restrain them from "abusing, assaulting trade unionists." Mayor Howe announces that the city will "fight to the last ditch with all the resources at our command," as the suit, he says, is only intended to hamper and restrict the city in the operation and expansion of its electric light and power business.

The company will break up the plant of the company and states that every effort has been made to conduct the municipal light business in a lawful manner.

"SAFETY FIRST" IN WOODS.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 13.—In preparation for the winter season in the northern woods, the state industrial commission is arranging to carry its "safety first" campaign into the logging industry. The commission estimates that 17 men were injured last year while handling axes and that 211 were injured by falling limbs.

Duluth, Minn., Nov. 12.—The treatment of woodsmen "is a blot on the fair name of the city of Duluth and the state of Minnesota" says the Labor World.

"The lumber industry is the very first of the employment agent," declared this paper. "He pays for his job. Then he pays railroad fare, and generally a monthly gouge for hospital and medical attention, which he probably won't need, and which he probably will. Then he is overworked, living in lumbers and of a character that will menace the conditions and ideals established by American workers."

INCREASES FOR CAR EMPLOYES.

Chicago, Nov. 12.—By a six to one vote employes of the elevated railway system in this city have agreed to arbitrate with the company. Increased wages total $250,000 a year and apply to not only motormen, conductors, trainmen, towermen and switchmen, but car cleaners, shopmen, waterboys, agents, trackmen and others. The union is affiliated to the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes.

The union of surface street car men, affiliated to the same organization, recently secured substantial wage increases through an arbitration board after a short strike.

IMPROVE CONVICTS' QUARTERS.

Charleston, S. C., Nov. 13.—The state board of charities and corrections is urging counties to adopt a portable steel cage for the confinement of prisoners and tents now in use. Under present conditions, the overcrowding of the general rule, with convicts sleeping on straw ticks placed on rough boards. Sanitary conditions are deplorable and iron bed. Where tents are used there is no flooring and prisoners sleep in the mud. Bedding is changed but once a month the blankets are washed, and the tents are aired only once a month with oily disinfectants.

CHILDREN ARE BARRED.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 12.—Answering a request from the Moving Picture Operators' union, the board of health is enforcing the operation of moving picture machines, that no child or married female between the ages of 14 and 18 shall be employed under 18 years are barred. The unionists intend stopping the practice of employing children for this work.

REJECT SMALL COMPROMISE.

Cincinnati, Nov. 12.—A committee representing Big Four railroad telegraphers have rejected the offer of a $12.50 per month increase. The wire men have presented a demand for increases that average 25 per cent.

SECURE HALF HOLIDAY.

Santa Barbara, Cal., Nov. 12.—Pumpmen, painters and sheet metal workers in this city have secured the Saturday half holiday without a strike.

CHICAGO EVADES SEAMEN'S LAW

Chicago, Nov. 13.—By changing the status of its six fireboats from general service craft to river and harbor boats this city saves a few dollars at the cost of endangering lives and property and also nullifies the seamen's law.

Under the old license the fire tugs were permitted to navigate anywhere on the great lakes. The new status limits the boats to cruises in the river and out in the lake only as far as the breakwater. In the event of fire along the lake front, or in South Chicago the fireboats would not be permitted to go unless towed by a tug with a great lakes certificate.

Trade unionists are astounded at the attempt at evasion of the seamen's law, President Fitzpatrick, of the local federation of labor, declaring that the Seamen's Act of the Lake Seamen's union, have filed protests with city officials.

SECURES RECOGNITION.

Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 12.—The local barber shops have complied with and signed an agreement with the new Barber Cut Men's union. The power of the union is shown by the fact that it also included. This local was organized one year ago.

CAR CLEANERS STRIKE.

Long Island City, N. Y., Nov. 12.—Car cleaners employed by the Pennsylvania railroad are on strike because they have refused to accept an increase of $1.00. 1,000 workers are involved.

HAVE SUNDAY CLOSING LAW.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 13.—The Barbers' union, assisted by the entire trade union movement, has succeeded in having a Sunday closing ordinance adopted by the city council.

DAYTON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Dayton, O., Nov. 13.—Iron molders employed by the Dayton Malleable works are on strike because their demand for a minimum wage rate of $2.75 a day was refu-